(c) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to remove the sufferings of the cotton growers especially of Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The cotton growers in Punjab have suffered losses due to attack of various pests, particularly the American Boll Worm during the last few years.

(b) Yes, Sir. The cotton crop in the States of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan have suffered losses on account of attack of American boll worm. The early onset of the rains in the month of May and June 2001 led to early buildup of pest. Subsequent intermittent rains and cloudy weather helped further multiplication of pest and hindered the spray operations, causing damage to cotton.

(c) Both the Central and State Governments sent teams to survey the extent of damage to the cotton crop.

The States took suitable measures for the control of pest by guiding farmers for the appropriate use of pesticides, checking quality of pesticides, distribution of leaflets, organizing kisan goshties etc.

Farmers are compensated under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme for crop losses and those farmers who have insured their crop are provided compensation as per the rules/norms. However, the State of Punjab is not covered under the scheme as the state has not opted for the insurance scheme.

Salary without work at fertilizer plant in Gorakhpur

†630. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fertilizer plant in Gorakhpur is closed and its employees are being paid salary without any work;

(b) the details of amount being spent annually towards salary, etc. of the employees;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government are considering to restart the plant, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. The Gorakhpur Unit of Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCI) is lying shutdown w.e.f. 10.06.1990 and activities such as preservation, safety and related activities are being continued. The employees are being paid salaries regularly.

(b) The details of amount being paid as salary etc. to the employees of Gorakhpur Unit during the last three years is as under:—

Year	Rs. in crore
1998-1999	15.7
1999-2000	16.9
2000-2001	16.4

(c) and (d) Government is examining a proposal for revival etc. of the different units of FCI including the Gorakhpur Unit. In the meanwhile on November 2, 2001, BIFR recommended winding up of FCI under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985. However, the FCI has on November 19, 2001 filed an appeal against the order of BIFR before the Appelate Authority.

Prices of Rifampicin

631. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that by keeping Rifampicin and its intermediates in the negative list, the consumer is made to pay high prices;

(b) whether it is a fact that price of Rifampicin and its